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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 5
Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Austria:* revised draft resolution

Laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming, in accordance with its resolutions 50/4 of 16 March 2007 and 58/9 of 17 March 2015, the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities, and policymakers,

Reaffirming also, in accordance with its resolutions 52/7 of 20 March 2009 and 54/3 of 25 March 2011, that the reliability of the results of drug analysis laboratories has significant implications for, inter alia, law enforcement, as well as for the international harmonization of data and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring the quality and reliability of the results of drug analysis laboratories, and emphasizing in particular that the quality and reliability of those results are a matter of safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms and ensuring public safety and effective law enforcement,

Emphasizing that, to support countries in the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, it is essential to maintain and enhance the effectiveness and capacity of drug analysis laboratories and to ensure the continuity of their work,

Noting the ongoing efforts by the scientific and forensic work programme to enhance national and regional forensic capacity and facilitate the exchange of analytical laboratory data, including through the training courses held recently at the laboratory of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna,

Acknowledging the continuing need to maintain and enhance support for laboratories in their analytical work, for information-sharing and for other services, as well as for the training of experts,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

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Recalling the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[1] and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4 of 12 March 2010 and 54/3 of 25 March 2011, in which it is recognized that the use of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes is indispensable and that their availability for such purposes should not be unduly restricted, while their diversion and abuse should be prevented,

Recalling also the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[2] in which it is recognized that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes,

Stressing that access to reference materials on controlled substances for routine analytical laboratory work is an essential quality-assurance requirement for achieving reliable laboratory results and that such access should not be hampered by costs and unnecessarily complex administrative procedures for obtaining import and export authorizations,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen national drug analysis laboratories and to make efforts towards the effective exchange of forensic laboratory information on scheduled substances, including research and trend analysis, where possible;

2. *Requests* Member States, in accordance with its resolution 54/3, to further review and enhance national procedures, as appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control conventions, to enable expedited access to and the exchange of reference materials and test samples of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to maintain a central source of reference standards for narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their chemical precursors under international control and to make available to Member States chemical information and data on such substances upon request;

4. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the light of new analytical technologies and emerging challenges, to continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and ensure high quality standards by providing reference materials, identifying best practices, developing and updating relevant guidelines and research, and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data so that Member States can ensure their preparedness for the implementation of scheduling decisions;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its resolution 52/7, to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of laboratories through its quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories and through the international collaborative exercises programme, and to provide laboratories with assistance to develop and enhance their services;

6. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to cooperate on a bilateral and multilateral basis, inter alia by signing inter-agency memorandums of understanding, sharing data, including chemical, analytical and toxicological data, on recently scheduled substances;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to ensure the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.